CLAIMS

1. A disc prosthesis including a core, the core being of elastomeric material, the core being provided within an inner component, the inner component being of fabric, the inner component being provided within an outer component, the outer component being of fabric, the inner component providing a smooth inner contact surface for the core, movement between the inner and outer components being facilitated in preference to movement between the inner component and core.

2. A disc prosthesis including a core, the core being provided within an inner component, the inner component being provided within an outer component.

3. A disc according to claim 2 in which the core is a single elastomeric component.

4. A disc according to claim 2 in which the core is formed of multiple elastomeric components, with each provided within its own inner component.

5. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the core provides a planar top surface and planar lower surface, the top and bottom surfaces not being parallel to one another, the separation of the top and bottom surfaces increasing from one side of the core to the other.

6. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the top surface and/or bottom surface of the core is octagonal and/or hexagonal and/or round and/or elliptic

7. A disc according to any of claims 2 to 6 in which the inner component is of fabric.

8. A disc according to any of claims 2 to 7 in which any movement, particularly sliding movement, within the disc is greater between the outer component and inner component than between the inner component and core.

9. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the inner component is configured and/or formed of one or more materials intended to promote tissue growth.

10. A disc according to any preceding claim in which one or more materials used in the inner component are bio-absorbable.

11. A disc according to any of claims 2 to 10 in which uniform contact between the inner surface of the inner component and the core is provided.

12. A disc according to any of claims 2 to 11 in which a top wall of the inner component is connected to a side wall and hence to a bottom wall, with one or more further side walls being connected to the top wall and/or side wall and/or bottom wall.

13. A disc according to claim 12 in which the inner component is formed from an element including a side wall connected on one edge to a top wall and connected on an opposing edge to a bottom wall, the side wall being connected on one side edge to one other side wall and the side wall being connected on the other side edge to one or more other walls.

14. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the side walls of the inner component are contacted additional elements, provided by a continuous band extending around the side of the inner component

15. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the outer component is of fabric.

16. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the outer component is configured and/or formed of one or more materials intended to promote tissue growth, particularly tissue ingrowth through the outer component and/or between the inner component and the core and/or through the inner component.

17. A disc according to any preceding claim in which one or more materials used in the outer component are bio-absorbable.

18. A disc according to any preceding claim in which the outer component is formed from an element including a side wall connected on one edge to a top wall and connected on an opposing edge to a bottom wall, the side wall being connected on one side edge to two other side walls, the side wall being connected on the other side edge to two other side walls, a further side wall being connected to the opposite edge of the top wall or bottom wall to the edge to which the side wall linking the top wall and bottom wall is provided.

19. A disc according to any preceding claim in which one or more edges of the top wall and/or one or more edges of the bottom wall of the outer component are provided with flanges, the flanges providing anchor locations for attaching the outer component to one or more vertebrae.

20. A kit for use in providing a disc prosthesis, the kit including a series of different sized prostheses, one or more of the prostheses including a core, the core being provided within an inner component, the inner component, the inner component being provided within an outer component.

21. A kit according to claim 20 wherein the disc prosthesis is provided according to any of claims 1 to 19.

22. A surgical technique for providing a disc prosthesis, the technique including, removing at least part of the natural disc in a spine and inserting a disc prosthesis in the spine, the disc prosthesis comprising a core, the core being provided within an inner component, the inner component, the inner component being provided within an outer component.

23. A surgical technique according to claim 22 wherein the disc prosthesis is provided according to any of claims 1 to 19.